User-Developed Protocol:

Purification of viral DNA from animal stool using the DNeasy® Blood & Tissue Kit

This procedure has been adapted by customers from the DNeasy animal blood and cell protocol and is for purification of viral DNA from fresh or frozen animal stool using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit. **It has not been thoroughly tested and optimized by QIAGEN.**

IMPORTANT: Please read the "Safety Information" and "Important Notes" sections in the *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook* before beginning this procedure. For safety information on the additional chemicals mentioned in this protocol, please consult the appropriate material safety data sheets (MSDSs), available from the product supplier. DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kits are intended for research use. No claim or representation is intended to provide information for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of a disease.

Equipment and reagents to be supplied by user

- DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit (cat. no. 69504 or 69506)
- Pipets and pipet tips
- Vortexer
- Microcentrifuge tubes (1.5 ml or 2 ml)
- Microcentrifuge with rotor for 1.5 ml and 2 ml tubes
- Centrifuge capable of attaining 4000 x *g* with centrifuge tubes
- Thermomixer, shaking water bath, or rocking platform for heating at 56°C
- 0.22 µm filter
- Ethanol (96–100%)*
- 0.89% NaCl
- When the viral titer of the sample is low, use of carrier DNA (e.g., poly-dA, poly-dT, poly-dA:dT dissolved at 40 µg/ml in Buffer AL) is recommended

Important points before starting

- If using the DNeasy Blood & Tissue Kit for the first time, read "Important Notes" in the *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook*.
- All centrifugation steps are carried out at room temperature (15–25°C).
- Vortexing should be performed by pulse-vortexing for 5–10 s.
- 0.89% NaCl is required for use in step 1. Buffer ATL is not required in this protocol.

* Do not use denatured alcohol, which contains other substances such as methanol or methylethylketone.

Things to do before starting

- Buffer ATL and Buffer AL may form precipitates upon storage. If necessary, warm to 56°C until the precipitates have fully dissolved.
- Buffer AW1 and Buffer AW2 are supplied as concentrates. Before using for the first time, add the appropriate amount of ethanol (96–100%) as indicated on the bottle to obtain a working solution.
- Preheat a thermomixer, shaking water bath, or rocking platform to 56°C for use in step 4.
- If using frozen stool, equilibrate the sample to room temperature. Avoid repeated thawing and freezing of samples since this will lead to reduced DNA size.

Procedure

1. **Suspend 0.5–1.0 ml stool in up to 5 ml of 0.89% NaCl (i.e., up to 1:10 dilution) in a centrifuge tube.**
2. **Centrifuge at 4000 x *g* for 20 min to clarify the solution**.
3. **Filter the supernatant using a 0.22 µm filter.**
4. **Pipet 200 µl of the supernatant into a 1.5 ml or 2 ml microcentrifuge tube (not provided). Add 20 µl proteinase K solution and 200 µl Buffer AL (without added ethanol). Mix thoroughly by vortexing, and incubate at 56°C for 10 min.**

   Note: Stool, plasma, serum, urine, cerebrospinal fluid, bone marrow, and other body fluids often contain only very low numbers of cells or viruses. In these cases we recommend concentrating the samples (as large as 3.5 ml) to a final volume of 200 µl by ultrafiltration.

   Note: When the viral titer of the sample is low, use of carrier DNA (e.g., poly-dA, poly-dT, poly-dA:dT dissolved at 40 µg/ml in Buffer AL) is recommended.

   Ensure that ethanol has not been added to Buffer AL (see “Buffer AL” in the *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook*). Buffer AL can be purchased separately.

   It is essential that the sample and Buffer AL are mixed immediately and thoroughly by vortexing or pipetting to yield a homogeneous solution.

5. **Add 200 µl ethanol (96–100%) to the sample, and mix thoroughly by vortexing.**

   It is important that the sample and the ethanol are mixed thoroughly to yield a homogeneous solution.

6. **Pipet the mixture from step 5 (including any precipitate) into the DNeasy Mini spin column placed in a 2 ml collection tube (provided). Centrifuge at ≥6000 x *g* (8000 rpm) for 1 min. Discard flow-through and collection tube.***
7. **Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a new 2 ml collection tube (provided), add 500 µl Buffer AW1, and centrifuge for 1 min at ≥6000 x *g* (8000 rpm). Discard flow-through and collection tube.***

* Flow-through contains Buffer AL or Buffer AW1 and is therefore not compatible with bleach. See *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook* for safety information.

8. **Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a new 2 ml collection tube (provided), add 500 µl Buffer AW2, and centrifuge for 3 min at 20,000 x *g* (14,000 rpm) to dry the DNeasy membrane. Discard flow-through and collection tube.**

   It is important to dry the membrane of the DNeasy Mini spin column, since residual ethanol may interfere with subsequent reactions. This centrifugation step ensures that no residual ethanol will be carried over during the following elution.

   Following the centrifugation step, remove the DNeasy Mini spin column carefully so that the column does not come into contact with the flow-through, since this will result in carryover of ethanol. If carryover of ethanol occurs, empty the collection tube, then reuse it in another centrifugation for 1 min at 20,000 x *g* (14,000 rpm).

9. **Place the DNeasy Mini spin column in a clean 1.5 ml or 2 ml microcentrifuge tube (not provided), and pipet 200 µl Buffer AE directly onto the DNeasy membrane. Incubate at room temperature for 1 min, and then centrifuge for 1 min at ≥6000 x *g* (8000 rpm) to elute.**

   Elution with 100 µl (instead of 200 µl) increases the final DNA concentration in the eluate, but also decreases the overall DNA yield (see *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook*).

10. **Recommended: For maximum DNA yield, repeat elution once as described in step 9.**

    This step leads to increased overall DNA yield.

    A new microcentrifuge tube can be used for the second elution step to prevent dilution of the first eluate. Alternatively, to combine the eluates, the microcentrifuge tube from step 9 can be reused for the second elution step.

    Note: Do not elute more than 200 µl into a 1.5 ml microcentrifuge tube because the DNeasy Mini spin column will come into contact with the eluate.

Troubleshooting

For general troubleshooting, please consult the Troubleshooting Guide in the *DNeasy Blood & Tissue Handbook*.

QIAGEN handbooks can be requested from QIAGEN Technical Service or your local QIAGEN distributor. Selected handbooks can be downloaded from **www.qiagen.com/literature/default.aspx** .

Material safety data sheets (MSDS) for any QIAGEN product can be downloaded from **www.qiagen.com/ts/msds.asp**.